

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) [An] A metal applicator plate for an adhesive applicator apparatus for a core-making machine which applies adhesive to a web which moves from an upstream direction to a downstream direction, the applicator plate having a top portion, a bottom portion having a bottom surface, a pair of side surfaces, an upstream face which extends generally downwardly to the bottom surface for directing adhesive to the bottom surface, and a downstream face, the bottom surface extending from the upstream face beyond the downstream face and being adapted to spread adhesive on a web below the bottom surface, said bottom portion having a narrow wedge-shaped metal portion which extends in a downstream direction from said downstream face and which is defined by said bottom surface and by an upper surface which extends from said downstream face.

2. (currently amended) [The applicator plate of claim 1 an which] An applicator plate for an adhesive applicator apparatus for a core-making machine which applies adhesive to a web which moves from an upstream direction to a downstream direction, the applicator plate having a top portion, a bottom portion having a bottom surface, a pair of side surfaces, an upstream face which extends generally downwardly to the bottom surface for directing adhesive to the bottom surface, and a downstream face, the bottom surface extending from the upstream face beyond the downstream face and being adapted to spread adhesive on a web below the bottom surface, said bottom portion having a narrow wedge-shaped portion which extends in a downstream direction from said downstream face and which is defined by said bottom surface and by an upper

surface which extends from said downstream face, said bottom surface and said upper surface [form] forming an included angle of about 10° to about 20°.

3. (currently amended) The applicator plate of claim [1] 2 in which said wedge-shaped portion extends for at least about 0.03 to about 0.11 [inch] inches from said downstream face.

4. (currently amended) [The applicator plate of claim 3 in which] An applicator plate for an adhesive applicator apparatus for a core-making machine which applies adhesive to a web which moves from an upstream direction to a downstream direction, the applicator plate having a top portion, a bottom portion having a bottom surface, a pair of side surfaces, an upstream face which extends generally downwardly to the bottom surface for directing adhesive to the bottom surface, and a downstream face, the bottom surface extending from the upstream face beyond the downstream face and being adapted to spread adhesive on a web below the bottom surface, said bottom portion having a narrow wedge-shaped portion which extends in a downstream direction from said downstream face and which is defined by said bottom surface and by an upper surface which extends from said downstream face, said wedge-shaped portion extending for at least about 0.03 to about 0.11 inches from said downstream face, said downstream face [extends] extending upwardly from said upper surface at an angle of about 90°.

5. (currently amended) The applicator plate of claim 3 in which the bottom surface has a dimension of about 0.070 to about 0.160 [inch] inches.

6. (original) The applicator plate of claim 5 in which said bottom surface is substantially flat.

7. (currently amended) The applicator plate of claim 3 in which the thickness of said wedge-shaped portion has a thickness of about 0.005 to about 0.065 [inch] inches at said downstream face.

8. (currently amended) The applicator plate of claim 7 in which said wedge-shaped portion has a downstream end which has a thickness of about 0.007 to about 0.011 [inch] inches

9. (currently amended) The applicator plate of claim 7 in which said wedge-shaped portion has a downstream end which has a thickness of less than 0.025 [inch] inches.

10. (currently amended) [The applicator plate of claim 1 in which] An applicator plate for an adhesive applicator apparatus for a core-making machine which applies adhesive to a web which moves from an upstream direction to a downstream direction, the applicator plate having a top portion, a bottom portion having a bottom surface, a pair of side surfaces, an upstream face which extends generally downwardly to the bottom surface for directing adhesive to the bottom surface, and a downstream face, the bottom surface extending from the upstream face beyond the downstream face and being adapted to spread adhesive on a web below the bottom surface, said bottom portion having a narrow wedge-shaped portion which extends in a downstream direction from said downstream face and which is defined by said bottom surface and by an upper surface which extends from said downstream face, said downstream face [extends] extending upwardly from said upper surface at an angle of about 90°.

11. (currently amended) The applicator plate of claim [1] 2 in which the thickness of said wedge-shaped portion has a thickness of about 0.005 to about 0.065 [inch] inches at said downstream face.

12. (currently amended) The applicator plate of claim 11 in which said wedge-shaped portion has a downstream end which has a thickness of about 0.007 to about 0.011 [inch] inches.

13. (currently amended) The applicator plate of claim 11 in which said wedge-shaped portion has a downstream end which has a thickness of less than 0.025 [inch] inches.

14. (currently amended) [The applicator plate of claim 1 in which] An applicator plate for an adhesive applicator apparatus for a core-making machine which applies adhesive to a web which moves from an upstream direction to a downstream direction, the applicator plate having a top portion, a bottom portion having a bottom surface, a pair of side surfaces, an upstream face which extends generally downwardly to the bottom surface for directing adhesive to the bottom surface, and a downstream face, the bottom surface extending from the upstream face beyond the downstream face and being adapted to spread adhesive on a web below the bottom surface, said bottom portion having a narrow wedge-shaped portion which extends in a downstream direction from said downstream face and which is defined by said bottom surface and by an upper surface which extends from said downstream face, said upstream face [has] having substantially flat top and side portions and a recessed portion which extends downwardly to said bottom surface whereby adhesive may flow in the recessed portion to said bottom surface.